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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 74% Light rain

Sensex 81,224 | Nifty 24,854 | Gold 77,750 | Silver 93,804 | Dollar 84.07 | Euro 91.17 | GBP 109.73

SLIPPERY ROAD

Heavy rains wreak havoc on Mysore Road, stranding transport corporation buses, commuters

PAGE 4

DENT IN IMAGE

After man injured in fall due to pothole, calls for accountability from BBMP grow louder

PAGE 5

Citizens, prominent and otherwise, end up losing big bucks to spurious threats by fake law enforcement officials declaring they are under arrest for made-up crimes

FREEZE... YOU ARE UNDER DIGITAL ARREST

Fraudsters go to extreme lengths to target smartphone users

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Ashok Kumar, a highly educated and business-savvy individual, recently retired from a prestigious bank. However, one wrong move—answering a WhatsApp call—turned his life upside down. On the morning of October 10, at 9.15 am, his phone rang. It was a WhatsApp video call. On the other end, a man in a police uniform introduced himself as Pramod, an 'Assistant Commissioner of Police from Mumbai', and informed Ashok that a bank account had been opened in his name and a loan of ₹100 crore had been taken fraudulently. He was told that a notice had been issued against him, and he was under 'digital arrest'. Believing the story, Ashok, shaken and fearful, transferred ₹41 lakh to the caller's account during the next 24 hours.

Similarly, on the night of September 1, renowned doctor

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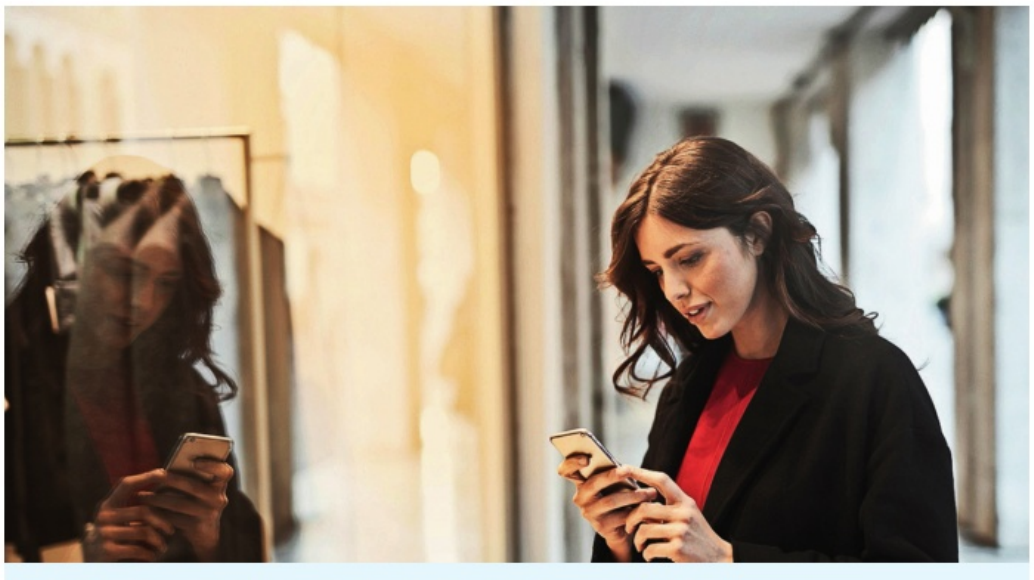

"Real authorities do not initiate video calls or demand money in such a manner. If anyone receives such a call, they are advised to immediately contact their local police

– Police official

Flex hex

Skywalk creaks under weight of banned hoardings; BBMP, police don't care to do their job

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The ban on illegal banners and hoardings remains just on paper as these eye-sores continue to dot the city. So much so that even a skywalk that is on the verge of being demolished is not spared. At such places it is not a matter of aesthetics, but a safety hazard for unwary pedestrians.

Huge banners were put up on the skywalk on Kempe Gowda Road near Santosh Talkies conveying best wishes on the occasion of Dasara. Though Dasara festivities ended more than a week ago, neither the people responsible for putting up such banners nor the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) bothered to remove them. Upparpet Police Station is situated a few 100 metres away from the skywalk but the police, who are supposed to register a case against those putting up banners and hoardings, took no initiative either to remove it or punish those behind this violation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Diwali Mela

Mega Diwali Handloom Mela organised by Maaruthi Enterprises is an exhibition cum sale which brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms & handicrafts Orissa tie & dye, dress material & Orissa sarees, West Bengal cotton sarees and many more. Amongst the variety of Rajasthan handicraft and handlooms, includes, blue paving from Uttar Pradesh, Kurja paving, Sharanpur Wood carvings, and many more. **Where: Devaki Ananda Suvarna Convention Hall, Bannerghatta road; When: Oct 21-30, 10am to 9pm**

02 Dixit concert

A mesmerizing evening of folk-fusion music as the iconic Raghu Dixit takes the stage in Bengaluru. Known for his energetic performances and unique blend of traditional Indian sounds with contemporary influences, Raghu Dixit promises a night of unforgettable music that resonates with people of all ages. Raghu Dixit is renowned for his soulful voice, catchy tunes, and thought-provoking lyrics that celebrate the spirit of India. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: December 1, 8 pm**

03 Sumukhi for laughs

A new stand-up show where Sumukhi justifies the spelling of her show's name and how she is not calling Monal a Hoe. One of India's top comics also made her Edinburgh debut this year. Sumukhi Suresh is an actor, writer, comedian, and a showrunner. She is the creator and star of the acclaimed Amazon series Pushpavalli and is also a host and judge on the hit Amazon show Comicstaan. Her stand-up special "Don't Tell Amma" (on Amazon Prime) was well received by audiences. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium; When: November 17, 4 pm**

Facial recognition for attendance in schools?

System is being trialed in selected schools across districts and is receiving positive feedback

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The Karnataka state government plans to implement a facial recognition system across all government schools to record student attendance via mobile phones, according to Ritesh Kumar Singh, principal secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Speaking at a programme recently, Singh explained that the system is already being trialed in selected schools across each district. In these schools, headmasters and teachers have successfully recorded student attendance using their mobile devices, and the results have been positive. Teachers who participated in the pilot programme in Uttara Kannada district also reported no issues with the system, which has encouraged the department to expand the initiative statewide. This method will provide accurate daily attendance records and information on absentees for every school. Additionally, it will bring greater transparency in the implementation of various student-focussed programmes in schools.

This move has generated a lot of debate. Uma Kumar, a school teacher said, "Introducing facial recognition for attendance is a much-needed modernisation of the education system, improving accuracy and ensuring accountability. This system will ensure precise records of student attendance and absenteeism, making it easier to monitor student participation and implement welfare schemes more transparently. One of the key advantages of facial recognition is the reduction of manual errors in recording attendance, which can sometimes lead to inflated numbers in government schools." Inaccurate records hinder the effective distribution of mid-day meals and scholarships, as these are often tied to attendance. By automating this process, the government can ensure that these benefits reach the intended recipients, preventing misuse and promoting fairness. "Additionally, this system can reduce the administrative burden on teachers, freeing them from routine tasks like attendance-taking, allowing them to focus more on instruction. This can lead to better learning outcomes as educators spend more time engaging with students," she added.

However, Radha Narayan, a parent said, "Privacy concerns top the list, as facial recognition technology involves the collection and storage of sensitive biometric data. Critics argue that this data could be misused, or worse, hacked, compromising the safety of children. Biometric data is incredibly personal and sensitive. Once collected, there's no going back. The government needs to ensure airtight security measures." Another issue is the digital divide. While the system may work in urban and semi-urban areas, many rural schools still struggle with poor internet connectivity and outdated infrastructure. In such places, reliance on mobile-based technology could lead to more problems than solutions, excluding students from low-income families or those attending schools in remote areas. Critics also argue that the implementation of such advanced technology might be premature in a state where basic educational infrastructure is still lacking in many schools. Instead, resources could be better spent on improving the quality of education, upgrading facilities, and ensuring that students have access to quality learning materials.

This method will provide accurate daily attendance records and information on absentees for every school

> **"Biometric data is incredibly personal and sensitive. The government needs to ensure airtight security measures**
> – Radha Narayan, parent

Tallest Ramanjaneya statue in Bengaluru

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Bengaluru now has a 63-foot tall Ramanjaneya statue, considered the tallest statue with Rama and Hanuman in the country. The Ramanjaneya statue is located at Sri Rama Mandira, Rajajinagar. Sri Rama Mandira at Rajajinagar is considered as Dakshina Ayodhya. The managing committee of Sri Rama Seva Mandali took the measures to install the Ramanjaneya statue to 'create awareness among the youth who are becoming materialistic rather than evincing interest in Indian traditions and culture.' "The construction of the statue commenced on August 23, 2023. The sculptors led by Jeevan J of Jeevan Kala Sannidhi worked hard to realise our dream of having the tallest Ramanjaneya statue here. The Prana Pratispana programme will begin at 5-30 pm on Monday. Sandalwood actor Ramesh Aravind will grace the programme," said Sri Rama Seva Mandali president Sridhar KS. He said that around Rs two crore was spent to construct the statue. "We have used more than 370 metric tonnes of ready mix concrete, 23.50 metric tonnes of steel, 1246 bags of cement, 13 loads of sand and 13 loads of gravel, 7816 kilograms of tubes and other materials for the construction of the statue," he said. He said Dr Veerendra Heggade of Dharmasthala not only blessed the Sri Rama Seva Mandali for deciding to construct the Ramanjaneya statue but also donated Rs 10 lakh. "More than 40 families have donated more than a lakh each for the construction of Ramanjaneya statue," he said.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Jeevan TD of Jeevan Kala Sannidhi has said that around 40 sculptors worked for more than a year to complete the construction of the statue. "We did not use bricks for the construction of the statue as the bricks have less shelf life than concrete. I have made sandalwood actor Yash's statue for KGF 2 movie and also Puneeth Rajkumar's statue at Ballari which is considered as the tallest statue of Puneeth Rajkumar in Karnataka," said Jeevan.

The three-day programme will begin on Monday and will conclude on Wednesday.

Sri Rama Seva Mandali members in front of Ramanjaneya statue at Sri Rama Mandira, Rajajinagar

AI Card to brighten the future of students

AI shikshak - AI driven e-learning platform for students and parents

Technology is changing fast in today's world and the AI technology is now considered the gateway for future education and employment world. Facing competitions in the world may be a big challenge unless one forges ahead by incorporating AI technology. Therefore it is inevitable for students of all disciplines, right from primary, high school, pre-university, degree, medical and engineering courses to adapt themselves to AI technology and earn skills in this field.

THE SPECIALTIES OF AI CARD

- Every student who registers has an opportunity to avail scholarship ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs one lakh. AI Cards are designed specific to the needs of students and parents.
- For candidates preparing for competitive exams: **COMPETE CARD**
- For primary, high school, PU, degree, engineering, medical and other students: **STUDENT CARD**
- For parents of students in classes below sixth standard: **PARENT CARD**

An AI card that can shape the future of students; registered student to get AI training, scholarhip, AI Shikhak, AI Competency Certificate. Last date to register- October 31.

WHAT IS THIS AI CARD?

This cutting-edge AI card accelerates learning, elevates the quality of education, ignites a passion for knowledge, and drives superior academic performance. It delivers unparalleled insights to every student, enhancing the educational standard as a whole. By empowering learners to master topics with clarity and depth, it also sparks creative thinking in everyday life. With support in both Kannada and English, registered users can conveniently access online training sessions.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DRIVEN E-LEARNING

Every student who registers and receives an AI card will undergo a ten-day training program. 'AI Shikshak,' an AI-powered e-learning platform, is designed to guide students from school through higher education. The platform provides lessons, question papers, supplementary notes, and more to help students thoroughly prepare for exams by deepening their understanding of the material. This system supports multiple languages, making it highly student- friendly, according to its developers.

Easy registration via WhatsApp

This AI Card has been developed by Yaticorp and In Media Networks. The WhatsApp number to register for AI Card is 9535440195. Those who interested can also register through the QR code provided here. This card is also useful for students of professional courses. The card is priced at Rs 499. Registered students will get the AI card to their registered address through courier.

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

Chamundeshwari Kshetra Authority: CM's powers restricted

The High Court has issued an interim order restraining the State government and the Chief Minister from exercising powers under Sections 16 and 17 of the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Act, 2024, without prior court permission. These sections allow the Chief Minister, who is the ex-officio chairperson of the authority, to make decisions without holding meetings or circulating the subject matter among members. The court clarified that actions under these provisions cannot be taken without its prior approval.

The order was passed by Justice Hemant Chandangoudar on October 15, in response to a petition filed by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Mysore, challenging the constitutional validity of the Act. The court also continued its earlier interim order prohibiting the alienation of any immovable and movable property belonging to the Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru. The State government provided an undertaking that "the prevailing customs and traditions of the temple will not be modified or interfered with during the pendency of the petition". The petition's further hearing has been adjourned until November 22. **BMB**

11 Shih Tzus rescued from hellish puppy mill in city

Illegal breeder had caged animals in small, unventilated garage; dogs found suffering from injuries, infections

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In a shocking incident of animal cruelty, 11 Shih Tzu dogs, including a 25-day-old puppy, were rescued from a dealer who had locked them up in a small car garage in Doddakallasandra near Ashwath Layout, on Wednesday. The rescue operation was carried out by the Shwana Foundation, an animal rescue NGO, after receiving a tip-off from a local resident. The dogs were found in deplorable conditions, caged in a small, unventilated garage, covered in their own waste, suffering from severe injuries and neglect.

The rescue operation

Sanjana Narendra, the founder of Shwana Foundation, along with her team members Sunderashan, Gnanesh, and Nakul, disguised themselves as potential buyers to assess the situation after they received information of how these Shih Tzus were being treated. On Tuesday, they visited Ramesh, who is a water can delivery-man and also calls himself to be a dog and puppy dealer, and found the Shih Tzus crammed into a small cage, where the dogs

had multiple scratches and bite marks from fighting each other. Ramesh had placed both male and female dogs together in the confined space, causing aggression.

The next day, they dialled 112 at around 9:45 am. The police inspected the place and found that the dogs suffered from infection. "The dogs had severe infections, eye ulcers, and severe fever, a result of the inhumane conditions they were subjected to," said Sanjana. The Subramanya police also found that Ramesh was also selling expired dog food contaminated with rat droppings, further endangering the animals. The swift operation led by the police resulted in the rescue of the dogs and an NCR (Non- cognizable report) was filed by the police. The accused voluntarily handed over the dogs and was warned not to engage in illegal breeding practices without proper licensing.

Overbreeding, hormone shots

The rescued Shih Tzus had been overbred, with female dogs forced to breed more frequently than their natural heat cycles allow. "A dog typically goes into heat once every six months, but unethical breeders often inject them with hormones to induce heat more frequently, risking the dogs' health for profit," said Sanjana adding how overbreeding can lead to physical exhaustion, infections, and complications in the dogs, shortening their lifespan and causing severe emotional distress.

The aftermath

All the rescued dogs are now being treated at Papa's Lifeline Hospital in Jayanagar. The 25-day-old puppy, which had been separated from its mother too early, is under special care, as puppies should not be separated from their mothers until they are at least three months old. The accused also harassed and threatened Sanjana and her team for filing the complaint, but the police intervened and warned him and his aides.

Need for ethical breeding

Early breeding, hormone injections, and poor living conditions cause severe physical and psychological damage to the dogs.

Easing traffic: Plan to widen key road connecting Kanakapura, Bannerghatta

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced the widening and redevelopment of the road linking Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road.

The project, which spans approximately 5.5 km, is part of the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015, designed to enhance connectivity and accommodate the increasing traffic volume in southern Bengaluru.

The proposed road will be expanded to a width of 24 metre, with the aim of easing traffic flow between two of the city's busiest arterial routes.

The road passes through critical areas, including Hyder Ali Circle, Tippu Circle, and Kothanur Road, ending at Kalena Agrahara Metro Station on Bannerghatta Main Road.

The BBMP's Bommanahalli Division, which is spearheading the project, has invited tenders for consultancy services. This includes preparing a detailed project report (DPR), land acquisition, demolition of existing structures, and re-asphalting the current road.

The project has been allocated a completion timeline of six months, according to the letter of invitation issued on October 4.

The BBMP is also working closely with landowners along the route, offering Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) as compensation for acquired land.

These certificates will allow landowners to claim twice the area of land surrendered, either in monetary form or as notional land elsewhere in the city. Landowners have been urged to submit relevant documents to the BBMP's Land Acquisition and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) office within 30 days of notification.

Once completed, the wider road is expected to reduce traffic bottlenecks. The improved road will also facilitate better access to the Kalena Agrahara Metro Station, further promoting the use of public transport in the area.

A pre-bid meeting on October 10 addressed queries from potential bidders. Opening of bids was slated for last Wednesday. **Sanjana CS**

Potholes and floods: Mysore Road crumbles

Heavy rains strand KSRTC and BMTC buses, trapping 80 passengers; Civil Defence and BBMP teams quickly arrive to rescue them and clear drains

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Vehicles become stranded on a waterlogged road following the rain

Heavy rains wreaked havoc on Mysore Road in the early hours of Sunday, leaving Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses stranded in floodwaters near Jnanabharathi and Pattanagere metro stations. The road, already in poor condition, was completely submerged after clogged stormwater drains (SWD) overflowed. With over 137 mm of rain recorded in Kengeri and 105 mm in Rajarajeshwari Nagar (RR Nagar), many roads in the area were heavily flooded.

Nearly 80 passengers were stranded in the two buses after floodwaters entered the engines, causing them to break down. Civil Defence volunteers, including Deputy Divisional Warden Gowtham HG and Sector Warden Raghavan NG, quickly responded to the situation, arriving at the scene to assist in the rescue efforts. Raghavan NG, who was part of the rescue operation, said, "The pressure from the stormwater drains was very high, and the water was overflowing onto the road. The road partially collapsed on one side, which caused the bus to tilt dangerously. We had to identify the blocked drains and unclog them to allow the water to recede."

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) team also arrived at the scene to unclog the drains and reduce the water levels. The teams worked from 3 am to 11:30 am to bring the flooding under control. The road was closed, and traffic was diverted to alternate routes during the operations.

The rescue team worked through the early hours to safely move passengers to higher ground. "We brought a pulley chain from the Kengeri police station and tied the bus to another lorry in front to pull it out of the water. We also helped push several two-wheelers that were stuck in the water," said Raghavan.

Due to the dangerous road conditions, the road was temporarily closed for public safety. Passengers were transferred to another KSRTC bus, provided by the local depot,

and waited until it was safe to continue their journey. "The road is full of potholes, and it's been neglected for too long. Every time it rains, it becomes dangerous for commuters," one of the regular commuters said.

Another commuter noted that the situation has persisted for some time, but expressed hope that it might be addressed now that the road in this stretch has started to deteriorate. "We've been dealing with potholes and waterlogging for so long. Now that the road is collapsing, maybe there's hope it will finally get fixed. It's not just the buses, every day, two-wheelers and cars struggle on this stretch. It's unsafe, and the government needs to take action before there's a bigger disaster."

Kithaganur-Bidarahalli: A road less travelled

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The residents of Kithaganur and Bidarahalli are grappling with a severe waterlogging issue on the road connecting the two areas, making it nearly impossible for vehicles to pass. Heavy rains over the past week have inundated the road, creating hazardous conditions for commuters and locals. With water pooling at several points, daily travel has become an ordeal, particularly for those relying on two-wheelers and cars.

"We are at our wit's end. This isn't the first time we've faced such a situation. Every time it rains heavily, the road floods and nothing is done to address the drainage problem," a resident said. He added that the issue has persisted for years, but no permanent solution has been provided by the authorities.

The flooded stretch of road has led to serious disruptions in daily commutes, with many residents forced to take long detours. Auto-rickshaw drivers and delivery personnel have also reported difficulties in navigating through the submerged roads. "I had to cancel my ride halfway through because my auto couldn't move further. It's affecting our livelihood," said an auto driver who frequently travels through the area.

Residents have voiced concerns about the safety risks posed by the flooded road. In some places, the water is knee-deep, and the absence of proper drainage channels has aggravated the situation. "There's always a fear that someone could get hurt, especially at night. It's not just an inconvenience; it's a safety hazard," stated a resident.

One resident emphasised the urgent need for panchayat officials to step in, stating, "The panchayat must step in to help students who are forced to cross this flooded road and the women who feel distressed and hesitant to take this route. If they fail to act, we are prepared to meet with the Chief Minister or Deputy CM for assistance. I've been witnessing this issue for a long time, and it's time for all of us to come together, and raise our concerns with the government about this ongoing problem. There's also confusion about which panchayat this road falls under, whether it's Kithaganur, Bidarahalli, or Doddagubbi. We end up complaining to multiple authorities, but nothing ever gets resolved."

Road stretch flooded due to rain

Residents further revealed that a woman recently fell in the flooded area due to the dangerously high water levels, emphasising the critical need for immediate action.

Residents have urged the panchayat officials to take swift action to resolve the waterlogging problem. They have called for immediate maintenance of the road, including better drainage systems, to prevent further incidents.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Tree neglect
Jayanagar

A hazardous tree branch on 5th Main Road in 4th Block, Jayanagar, remains unattended. Despite numerous calls, the BBMP has not yet acted to remove it.

Transition risk
Silk Board

Vehicles heading to Hosur Road from the Silk Board flyover face a steep incline, making the transition dangerous. The turn needs to be improved for safer access.

Road repair
Veerabhadrappa Road

Veerabhadrappa Road in Ramaswamy Palya, Ward Number 28, is in poor condition and needs immediate attention.

Lethal pothole crisis deepens, worsens

After motorist injured in fall due to pothole, citizens demand more accountability from BBMP

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In a recent incident, a commuter suffered severe injuries after a fall from his two-wheeler which came in contact with a pothole near Uttarahalli road. Ironically, the commuter who wished to remain anonymous told Bangalore Mirror that he had raised the issue of the road being pothole ridden only a few days prior to the unfortunate accident on the social media site X.

The incident took place on the road which connects Uttarahalli road to RR Nagar, opposite to Parishrama academy. Mohan (name changed) has fortunately not had a fracture but his right foot is severely hurt, to the extent of being unable to walk temporarily. Doctors have advised not to exert weight on the particular leg.

Craters Bhoruka Tech Park on ITPL Main Road on Sunday; inset: injured rider

"First things first, we need Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections. We need someone to be accountable. I believe potholes across the city are chained problems and need willingness to find a sustainable solution. The highest redressal we have seen is a deadline from the honourable court to fill the potholes which is followed by the BBMP commissioner providing a promised time limit within which the potholes are fixed but the promise does not come through," he said, talking about the possible remedies BBMP must take up. "We need to implement better methods in terms of material used and the process of maintaining the roads once done. Only accountability and awareness among the public could help in upping the efficiency of the work," he added.

On 11 October, the X handle 'potholes kategalu' of Mohan posted, "Uttarahalli/Kengeri road having prestigious educational institutions and hospitals don't have basic infrastructure. Dusty roads, no footpaths and street lights. It's suicidal to cross the roads in the evening without proper street lights." The accident occurred on 14 October.

Another commuter who also recently met with an accident after trying to avoid a pothole, injuring her left foot, said, "The BBMP must also set up a system like the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) who most often than not take immediate cognisance of an issue raised on X. It is also commendable that they post updates once the issue is resolved. While there are other modes such as the Sahaya application for citizens to raise an issue, it is much more accessible to do so through social media websites."

Health impact

Dr Vinay Kumaraswamy, consultant-orthopaedics, Fortis Hospital, Rajajinagar told BM that potholes significantly impact the health of daily motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders. "The repeated jolts from navigating potholed roads can lead to chronic back and neck pain, spinal injuries, and nerve damage. Riders may experience severe jolts to the spine, potentially causing long-term harm. Additionally, sudden braking or loss of control due to potholes can result in whiplash, concussions, or other head injuries," he said. Furthermore, prolonged exposure to vibrations from potholed roads can cause fatigue, eye strain, and hand numbness. The physical strain can also lead to mental stress, anxiety, and decreased reaction time, increasing the risk of accidents and injuries, he explained.

Dr Anand N Chavan, consultant-orthopaedics, Fortis Hospital, Cunningham road said since potholes pose a significant health risk, it necessitates vigilant driving habits to mitigate accidents and injuries. "To ensure safety, drivers should remain mentally alert and focused on the road, staying aware of potential hazards. A clear and composed state of mind is crucial, as driving conditions demand caution over speed," he said.

BM Finance Fundas

Advertorial Promotional Feature

EPF pension: What is formula for calculating pension amount?

A central government employee who retires under the Pension Rules is entitled to a pension after completing at least ten years of eligible service. Similarly, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) offers the Employees' Pension Scheme, a social security program for those with EPF accounts. Under the plan, workers in the organised sector are eligible for a pension upon reaching retirement age of 58. Here are some important FAQs about how much pension an EPF member will get as per the EPFO website.

What is the formula for calculating the Pension amount?

Pension= (Pensionable Salary (average of last 60 months) X Pensionable Service)/70.

What is the quantum of pension on superannuation?

A member who joins the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 at the age of 23 and superannuates at the age of 58, and contributing to the (present) wage ceiling of Rs.15000/- may get about Rs.7500/- as pension if service is 35 years. (Pensionable Salary X Pensionable Service)/70 = (15000x35)/70 = 7500

Can a member seek exemption the Scheme?

Individual member cannot seek exemption from the Pension Scheme. Only an establishment can seek exemption. The average salary is determined only for giving the pension to member. It is the average of last 60 months. (Non-contributory period, if any, is reduced)

What are the advantages of taking a Scheme Certificate?

1) It facilitates transfer of Pension Accounts when the employment is changed.

2) If the Holder of Scheme Certificate dies the family will get family pension

At what age a member is eligible for pension?

A member is eligible for pension on superannuation at the age of 58 years. If a member leaves employment between 50 and 57 years he can avail the early (reduced) pension.

What is the service needed for giving pension in case of death of the member?

In case of death of a member, the family pension and children pension is payable even after receiving one month's contribution (including part of the month) for Pension Fund.

If a member dies to whom the pension is payable?

On death of the member the Pension is automatically payable to the spouse (Widow/Widower). In addition, the children are also eligible till attainment of 25 years of age (2 at a time). Any disabled child in the family shall get disabled pension for life apart from the two child pensions.

In case the employer has failed to pay pension contribution whether any pension is payable or not?

Non-payment of pension contribution by an employer will not affect the grant of Pension. Pension is guaranteed.

Is it compulsory to withdraw the pension along with the P.F. amount?

No. A member can withdraw his PF amount (member share only) and maintain a lien in the Pension Scheme by availing a Scheme Certificate.

In the absence of family member can a pensioner nominate any other person to receive family pension?

No. In the absence of family member on the date of the death of the member (before eligibility for member pension), the family pension is payable to nominee and in the absence of a valid nomination it is payable to dependent father followed by dependent mother. —ET Online

LET'S CONTINUE THE GAME...

Ball badminton, game that was once super popular in South India fights to retain its past glory

Continue the game....! Well, not many people would be familiar with this phrase. But those who have seen and followed the game of ball badminton will readily tell you that the Referee comes up with this comment each time the match is to be resumed with a fresh player serving or after either team or player gets a point.

Ball badminton, played with a harder racquet and a golden yellow woolen ball, was an extremely popular sport all over the South. Be it Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala or Pondicherry, a large section of the populace, men and women, boys and girls, played ball badminton. States in the North, West, East, Central and North East, did try it out and even entered the National Ball Badminton Championships. The Ball Badminton Federation of India has 34 units affiliated to it of which 26 are States units, five Public Sector units and three provisionally affiliated units.

Teams from the Indian Railways and Services, with most players from the South in their ranks, dominated the national scenario. College and University events were also a rage. But somehow, ball badminton lost out and today, enthusiasts are striving hard to ensure that they 'continue the game'.

One such organisation is the Merry Go Round Ball Badminton Club, which celebrated its golden jubilee from October 18 to 20.

N Manjunatha was the one who formed and established the Merry Go Round Ball Badminton Club in 1968-69. The club has been known for its pro-active role in promoting the sport of ball badminton by organising tournaments.

Merry Go Round were the champions of the A division league and also won many invitation tournaments when ball badminton flourished in every corner of the State.

Packed crowd at a ball badminton match (inset) N Manjunatha

It has the distinction of being the brains behind the organisation of two Senior National Ball Badminton Championships held at the National college grounds and at the BEL Stadium. It has also conducted the South Zone and Inter-University tournaments apart from hosting 35 major state-level events since its inception.

It is perhaps the only active club to date in Bengaluru to promote the game. A recipient of the Dasara Award from the state government and the Dronacharya Award from the Bangalore District Ball Badminton Association, Manjunatha was himself a player and represented his club with great distinction. After his playing days, he took up coaching and has coached many players who have brought glory to the state in the men's and women's sections.

Under his leadership, Merry Go Round BBC has the distinction of being the first club to organise a flood-lit ball badminton tournament. While the sport is a predominantly outdoor venture, the club also conducted an all-India tournament at the Sri Kanteerava Indoor Stadium. It is perhaps the only club to conduct 35 state-level and three all-India tournaments and is still very active as it completes 50 years of eventful and glorious existence.

"This generation perhaps has no idea of how popular the game was. Maybe, we will discuss ways and means to conduct events, probably have it telecast on some Television and Youtube channels

Players like TN Shanthala, Dr P Asha, Meera Nandakumar, Veena Ramesh, HS Sujatha, KS Mamatha, MK Shobha, N Savitha among women and Baby Reddy, Harish, Nagesh Babu, Parveez, Puttaraju among men were household names and many represented the state senior team and were also recipients of the Ekalavya Award and the Dasara Award for their achievements.

"Yes, it is quite a herculean task to keep the game alive. But we are determined to see that ball badminton regains its past glory. I know it is not that easy but only regular tournaments, exhibition matches, etc. will revive its popularity," said Manjunatha. "If the media can support us, it will go a long way in promoting ball badminton. We are also approaching educational institutions to form teams so that we can organise tournaments," he said.

– SS Shreekumar

BJP fields ex-CM Bommai's son from Shiggaon

The BJP has announced its nominees for Shiggaon and Sandur Assembly bypolls in Karnataka while the candidate for the high-profile Channapatna constituency is yet to be named.

The party on Saturday fielded former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's son Bharath B. Bommai from the Shiggaon seat and state ST Morcha chief Bangaru Hanumanthu from the Sandur seat.

The Shiggaon seat was represented by Basavaraj Bommai and has fallen vacant after he contested and won the Lok Sabha election from the Haveri parliamentary seat.

Bharath Bommai has obtained an MBA degree from the Singapore Management University after completing the Bachelor of Engineering degree from Purdue University in the US. Bangaru Hanumanthu has done BA, B.ed. The BJP party has never won from the Sandur (ST reserved) constituency.

Karnataka BJP chief BY Vijayendra called on party workers during an event earlier in the day to create history by winning the seat.

Vijayendra congratulated Bharat Bommai and Bangaru Hanumantu for being selected as the party candidates. "I request the party workers to engage in election activities like warriors from this moment onwards to ensure victory for the NDA candidates in all three constituencies," he said.

Following the alleged Valmiki Tribal Welfare Board scam, in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's name has surfaced, the BJP is hopeful to wrestle the seat.

Mining baron and MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy, who has joined the BJP, is expected to play an important role in the Sandur bypolls.

Meanwhile, the BJP is yet to finalise the candidate for the Channapatna seat, formerly represented by Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy. The BJP is negotiating with Kumaraswamy to field its senior leader CP Yogeshwara from Channapatna. However, Kumaraswamy is insisting on fielding a candidate from his party JD-S. **IANS**

Forest land cleared of encroachments in Yelahanka

The forest department reclaimed encroached forest land in the city. In Yelahanka, at Survey No. 182 in Marasandra, authorities cleared 2 acres and 10 guntas of forest land that had been encroached upon.

The area is now being rejuvenated with the planting of native species to restore the forest. The land, worth approximately ₹40 crore, had been illegally occupied by a person named Bhaireareddy. An FIR was registered, and the Bengaluru Urban District forest officials took action, reclaiming the land using JCB machinery.

With land prices soaring in Bengaluru, the Minister of Forests has issued strict instructions to clear all encroachments on forest land in the city. So far, over 103 acres have been reclaimed.

Some key areas include 27.2 acres in BM Kaval under Kaggalipura Range, 16.9 acres in Mylasandra, BM Kaval, and Kenchenahalli under Turahalli Forest Range, 2.5 acres in Sulikere Reserve Forest, 1 acre in UM Kaval, 14.4 acres in Bhoothanahalli and Ragihalli under Anekal Range, 18 acres in Jarakabande Kaval, Peenya, 17.3 acres in Kothanur under Yelahanka Range, 2.10 acres in Marasandra, and an additional 3 acres and 6 guntas elsewhere.

The total value of the cleared land is estimated to exceed ₹3,000 crores. Additionally, in Kothanur, around 22 acres and 8 guntas of forest land worth₹700 crore remain encroached. Minister Eshwar Khandre has instructed officials to initiate legal action to clear this land as well.

Eco-friendly Deepavali

In a bid to curb air and noise pollution, and to safeguard the health of senior citizens and young children, Minister for Forests, Biology, and Environment, Eshwar Khandre, has urged citizens to refrain from bursting crackers or to use only green crackers during the Deepavali celebrations. The minister also highlighted the risks associated with fireworks, especially for children.

"Many children sustain eye injuries while bursting crackers, and numerous others get hurt. Therefore, it's best to avoid fireworks as much as possible. If crackers must be burst, only green crackers that do not harm the environment should be used," he stated in the press release.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court have both ruled that fireworks exceeding 125 decibels or those releasing excessive smoke due to chemicals are prohibited. Further, the use of green crackers is allowed only between 8 pm and 10 pm.

Undertaking

During a meeting with district authorities and senior officials following the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, instructions were given to ensure that firecracker shop owners provide written undertakings stating that they will only stock, transport, and sell green crackers.

It was also made clear that those who violate these rules would not be granted licenses to sell fireworks in the future, and district administrations have been directed to take strict action. Khandre also called upon organisations, teachers, lecturers, environmental activists, and public representatives to raise awareness among the general public, especially children, about the harmful effects of crackers and to encourage the use of green crackers. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Eating foods rich in antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins such as B and C can help reduce stress

Exercise releases endorphins, which are natural mood elevators, while helping regulate cortisol levels

Dietary restriction or good genes?

New study tries to unpick which has a greater impact on lifespan

As people who research ageing like to quip: the best thing you can do to increase how long you live is to pick good parents.

After all, it has long been recognised that longer-lived people tend to have longer-lived parents and grandparents, suggesting that genetics influence longevity.

Complicating the picture, however, is that we know that the sum of your lifestyle, specifically diet and exercise, also significantly influences your health into older age and how long you live.

What contribution lifestyle versus genetics makes is an open question that a recent study in Nature has shed new light on.

Scientists have long known that reducing calorie intake can make animals live longer. In the 1930s, it was noted that rats fed reduced calories lived longer than rats who could eat as much as they wanted. Similarly, people who are more physically active tend to live longer. But specifically linking single genes to longevity was until recently a controversial one.

While studying the lifespan of the tiny worm C elegans at the University of California, San Francisco, Cynthia Kenyon found that small changes to the gene that controls the way that cells detect and respond to nutrients around them led to the worms doubling their lifespan. This raises new questions: if we know that genetics and lifestyle affect how long you live, which one is more important? And how do they interact?

To try to tease out the effects of genetics versus lifestyle, the new study in Nature examined different models of caloric restriction in 960 mice. The researchers specifically looked at classical experimental models of caloric restriction (either 20 per cent or 40 per cent fewer calories than control mice), or intermittent fasting of one or two days without food (as intermittent fasting is popular in people looking to see the positive benefits of caloric restriction).

Because we now know that small genetic variations affect ageing, the researchers specifically used genetically diverse mice. This is important for two reasons. First, as laboratory studies on mice are normally performed on genetically very (very!) similar mice, this allowed the researchers to tease out the effects of both diet and genetic variables would have on longevity.

Second, humans are highly diverse, meaning that studies on genetically near-identical mice don't often translate into humanity's high genetic diversity.

The headline finding was that genetics appeared to play a larger role in lifespan than any of the dietary restriction interventions. Long-lived types of mice were still longer lived despite dietary changes.

> **The key finding of recent study was that genetics appeared to play a larger role in lifespan than any of the dietary restriction interventions**

Diet counts, but genes count more

And while shorter-lived mice did show improvements as a result of dietary restrictions, they didn't catch up to their longer-lived peers. This suggests that there's truth to the "pick good parents" joke. Caloric restriction models still increased lifespans across all the types of mice, with the 40 per cent restriction group having improved average and maximum lifespans compared with the 20 per cent group.

And the 20 per cent group showed improvements in both group average and maximum length of lives compared with the control group. It's just the effects of genetics were larger than the effect of the dietary interventions.

While all the caloric restriction models resulted in increased lifespan in the mice on average, in the most extreme caloric restriction model tested (40 per cent less group) changes that could be seen as physical harms were observed. These included reduced immune function and losses in muscle mass, which outside of a predator- and germ-free laboratory environment could affect health and longevity.

There are some important caveats in studies like this. First, it's not known if these results apply to humans.

As with most caloric restriction research in mice, the restricted feeding groups were fed 20 per cent or 40 per cent less than a control group who ate as much as they wanted. In humans, that'd be like assuming people eating every meal every day at a bottomless buffet is "normal". And people who do not eat from limitless trays of food are "restricted feeding". That's not an exact parallel to how humans live and eat.

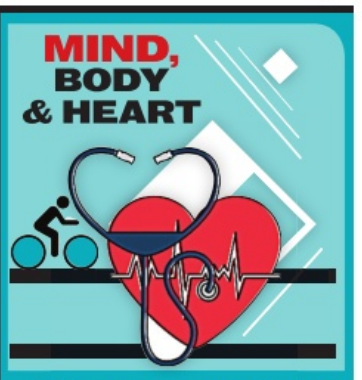
Second, although exercise wasn't controlled in any way in this study, most groups did similar amounts of running in their in-cage running wheels except the 40 per cent caloric restriction group who ran significantly more.

The researchers suggested that this extra exercise in the 40 per cent group was the mice constantly hunting for more food. But as this group did so much more exercise than the others, it could also mean that positive effects of increased exercise were also seen in this group alongside their caloric restriction.

So, while we can't pick our parents or change the genes we inherit from them, it is interesting to know that specific genetic variations play a significant role in the maximum age we can aspire to.

The genetic cards we're dealt dictate how long we can expect to live. Just as important in this study, however, lifestyle interventions such as diet and exercise that aim to improve lifespan should be effective regardless of the genes we have.

(By Bradley Elliott, University of Westminster, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Preeclampsia risk

Blood test can help
A simple blood test could help doctors identify women in labour who are at the risk for preeclampsia — a leading cause of maternal death.

What is preeclampsia
Between 5 to 10 per cent of pregnant women develop preeclampsia (sudden high blood pressure and protein in the urine), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
While preeclampsia can develop as early as the 20th week of pregnancy, the study focused on identifying women who were at risk for preeclampsia when they were admitted to the hospital in labour.

How to calculate risk
Researchers have determined doctors can predict a woman's risk of developing preeclampsia by calculating the ratio of two blood proteins — fibrinogen and albumin — measured in routine blood tests done when women in labour enter the hospital.

Fibrinogen and albumin
Fibrinogen is involved in blood clotting and inflammation, while albumin helps maintain fluid balance and carries hormones, vitamins and enzymes throughout the body. Both can be disrupted with preeclampsia — fibrinogen may be elevated, albumin may be reduced, or both can occur. There is no universally established normal value for this fibrinogen-to-albumin ratio (FAR), which can range from 0.05 to 1 or higher. Higher FAR values are often associated with increased inflammation, infection or serious health conditions, and the higher the FAR, the greater the concern.
In the study, researchers analysed the records of 2,629 women who gave birth between 2018 and 2024, 1,819 who did not have preeclampsia, 584 who had preeclampsia with mild features or symptoms and 226 who had preeclampsia with severe features or symptoms.

–IANS

"Real authorities do not initiate video calls or demand money..."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Anvitha was about to sleep when she received a call on her smartphone. The person on the other end introduced himself as Shamsher, a 'CBI officer', and claimed that there was a money laundering warrant issued against her.

He said she was under digital arrest and must participate in a video call. Terrified, Dr. Anvitha transferred `70 lakh to the scammer's account.

These are just a few examples of the growing number of cybercrimes, with fraudsters continuously devising new methods to deceive people through their smartphones. In India, with nearly 700 million smartphone users—80% of whom are educated—the rate of cybercrimes has skyrocketed.

According to the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, the country sees an average of 7,000 internet fraud cases daily, with a significant 113% increase from 2021 to 2023.

Police say that the scammers are constantly evolving their techniques, from fake lottery wins requiring tax payments to job scams and phishing with OTPs. Now, they've introduced a new method called 'digital arrest'.

Fraudsters impersonate police officers or court officials, creating fake scenarios to trap unsuspecting victims into transferring large sums of money. Many, including respected individuals like SP Oswal, chairman of Vardhman Group, has fallen prey. Oswal was scammed for ₹7 crore by a gang posing as high-ranking officials, who even created a virtual court scene to deceive him.

Another case involved a retired Major General from Noida who lost ₹2 crore after being falsely accused of smuggling illegal items. The scammers convinced him he was under digital arrest, prompting him to transfer the money.

A woman in Indore was held under 'digital arrest' for five days after being threatened with charges related to drug trafficking and money laundering. She ended up transferring ₹46 lakh to the fraudsters.

"This alarming rise in 'digital arrest' scams highlights the need for public awareness. Real authorities do not initiate video calls or demand money in such a manner. If anyone receives such a call, they are advised to immediately contact their local police or the cybercrime helpline at 1930 or visit www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Fraudsters use sophisticated methods, including speaking in formal English, displaying fake IDs during video calls, and creating realistic backgrounds of government offices or courtrooms. They often target senior citizens, retirees, and educated professionals with fabricated accusations, presenting seemingly legitimate documents to demand large sums of money. Public vigilance and caution are crucial in preventing such digital fraud," said a police official.

How it works

Cybercriminals reach out to victims via phone or video calls using VOIP services, WhatsApp, or Skype, typically from international numbers. They impersonate government officials, such as police officers or representatives from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), presenting themselves as authoritative figures and creating an immediate sense of threat.

The digital arrest scam preys on fear, urgency, and emotional manipulation. Victims are isolated and inundated with false accusations and threats of swift legal action, all aimed at coercing them into making financial payments.

Types of scams

Digital arrest scammers excel at fabricating convincing narratives, employing various scenarios to deceive their targets. Some prevalent tactics include:

Misuse of Aadhaar or Phone Number: Victims are falsely accused of using their Aadhaar or phone number for illegal transactions, which enhances the credibility of the threat.

Family Involvement: Scammers may claim that a family member is involved in illegal activities, pressuring the victim to make quick payments to avoid their loved one's arrest.

How to stay safe

Do not trust unknown numbers: Be cautious of calls from unfamiliar numbers.

Verify the caller's Identity: Take a moment to confirm their credentials by directly contacting the agency using official phone numbers.

Avoid sharing sensitive information: Never disclose personal information such as your Aadhaar number, bank details, or credit card info.

Stay calm: Scammers thrive on fear and confusion. If you receive a suspicious call, take a moment to breathe, hang up, and evaluate the situation before reacting.

Yellow alert on Tuesday

Bengaluru experienced heavy rainfall on Sunday, and now the Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for the city on Tuesday. According to the latest weather update, an upper air cyclonic circulation persists over the southwest and west-central Bay of Bengal, near the coasts of northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh, extending up to 5.8 km above sea level and tilting southwestward.

As a result, isolated heavy rains are expected in Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts.

Several other districts, including Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Shivamogga, Davanagere, Ballari, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Chikballapur, and Kolar, are also likely to experience isolated heavy rain and thunderstorms.

Meanwhile, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected across many parts of North Interior Karnataka, while most districts in South Interior Karnataka are likely to experience similar conditions. In Dakshina Kannada, moderate rainfall is expected in several areas.

Bengaluru will likely remain under generally cloudy skies, with light to moderate rain and thunderstorms expected.

The maximum temperature is forecasted to reach around 26°C, while the minimum temperature will likely hover around 20°C.

Rain gods show up late, but can't save India

Although the rains began in the afternoon, many netizens had been hoping for an earlier downpour, specifically in the morning, in the hopes that it might wash out the first test match between India and New Zealand—perhaps sparing India from a likely defeat.

For the past two days, social media had been buzzing with comments, with many users turning to weather bloggers to ask if the rain would interrupt the match.

As the rain intensified for two days, curiosity grew, with people eagerly waiting for updates on when the showers would stop. Amidst this, a group of cricket fans were fervently praying to the Rain Gods, hoping for a downpour that might save India from a potential loss.

In the end, the rain held off long enough for the match to proceed, and New Zealand secured an eight-wicket victory, while the rains finally soaked the city later in the afternoon.

Illegal hoardings not just eyesore, but safety hazard too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The problem with the skywalk is that it is not in a good condition and the BBMP officials have decided to demolish it as it is not fit for use. Bangalore Mirror had reported on July 13, 2022, about how the skywalk was filled with weeds, rotting garbage and liquor bottles.

It has also reported what the BBMP Executive Engineer said on the condition of the skywalk and the BBMP's decision to float a tender inviting bidders for its demolition. The statement was issued two years ago but the skywalk remains in the same condition and it was being used to put up hoardings and banners. Not many pedestrians use it.

A few pedestrians expressed concern over the condition of the skywalk and the additional weight put on it by way of banners and hoardings.

"I expect the minister to advise his supporters not to put up banners and hoardings at public places without permission from the BBMP.

The Minister has to advise the BBMP Health Department or Solid Waste Management Department to remove illegal banners and hoardings immediately,'' said Prasanna G, a pedestrian.

Demanding that the BBMP remove illegal banners put up at public places, Raghavendra S, a pedestrian, said the authorities have to act tough against those putting them up irrespective of their political affiliations.

"We must blame politicians and their supporters for illegal banners and hoardings in the city. The problem with the politicians is that they never advise their followers to follow the norms. They are happy to see banners and hoardings with their photos across the city,'' said Raghavendra.

GR Mohan, an advocate who filed a PIL in the High Court, said putting up banners and hoardings is a violation of the High Court order dated August 2, 2023 and subsequent orders.

"The BBMP Chief Commissioner and Bengaluru Commissioner of Police are liable for contempt of High Court order for not taking action against those responsible for putting up banners and hoardings,'' said Mohan.

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I, John Bosco S/o Stephen Raj, R/o 16 Khata No 43/70, 4th Cross, Green Park Layout, Halealli, Bangalore - 560036. Have Changed My Name From John Bosco Stephen Raj to John Bosco (Passport No E5293057) for All Future Purposes, Vide Affidavit No. IN- Ka44669000124234W.

I, SWATIK. S P R/O No 1107, Tower-1, Nikko Homes-1, Bharatiya City, Hegde Nagar, Blr-64 changed my name from S P. SWATHIK to SWATIK. S P for all future purposes

I, Paul S/o James Boward R/o 5, ITC colony, 1st Cross, Jeevanahalli, Frazer Town, Bangalore - 560005 have changed my name to Paul Boward

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Memories of Paris

Alia Bhatt spends Sunday reminiscing on her Parisian treat

Bollywood superstar Alia Bhatt, who can be seen in the recently released movie 'Jigra' is spending her Sunday with food on her mind.

On Sunday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a throwback picture of herself enjoying a Croissant.

In the picture, the actress can be seen dressed in a sweatshirt and a pair of denims, and making a goofy face.

She wrote on the picture, "Parisian treat FTW #Throwback". Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia is currently in Kashmir shooting for her upcoming movie 'Alpha'.

Recently, the actress took to her Instagram to drop two pictures from Kashmir. In the pictures, the actress was seen dressed in woollen attire basking in the sun.

She simply captioned the picture, "Kashmir #Alpha'. 'Alpha' is directed by Shiv Rawail, who is known for the streaming series 'The Railway Men' which was also produced by YRF. Created by producer Aditya Chopra, the YRF spy includes blockbusters like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War', 'Pathaan' and 'Tiger 3'.

The films lined up for the spy-universe include 'War 2' with Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr in the lead, 'Pathaan 2', and 'Tiger vs Pathaan'.

Meanwhile, Alia's film 'Jigra' got embroiled in a controversy as actress-director Divya Khossla launched a scathing attack on her, claiming she bought 'Jigra' tickets herself.

– ANI

Kichcha Sudeep's mother Saroja Sanjeev no more

Actor Kichcha Sudeep's mother Saroja Sanjeev has passed away after battling age-related ailments on Sunday morning.

She breathed her last at Apollo Hospital, Jayanagar, where she was receiving treatment for age-related health complications.

Kichcha Sudeep, who shares a close bond with his family, has received an outpouring of condolences from industry members and fans. Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President DK Shivakumar expressed grief on his X handle.

Sharing a picture of the actor with his mother, he wrote, "Heartbroken to hear the news of her passing away. I pray that the departed soul may rest in eternal peace and may the Lord grant Sudeep and his family the strength to bear the pain of bereavement." Kichcha Sudeep's mother last rites will take place in the city today at her residence in JP Nagar.

–ANI

Birthday wishes from Tokyo

Telugu superstar Prabhas, who was recently seen in 'Kalki 2898 AD', has cultivated fans across the globe.

Ahead of his 45th birthday, the actor was wished by his Japanese fans in Tokyo. A video shows his fan from Tokyo sending their best wishes to the actor, who celebrates his birthday on October 23.

Prabhas, who predominantly works in Telugu films, is one of the highest-paid actors in Indian cinema.

In 2015, Prabhas played dual roles as Shivudu/Mahendra Baahubali and Amarendra Baahubali in S.S. Rajamouli's epic action drama 'Baahubali: The Beginning'. With a budget of Rs 180 crore ($28 million), it was the most expensive Indian film ever made at the time of its release, and became a record-breaking box office success.

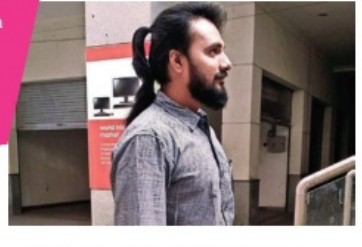
The film eventually grossed over Rs 600 crore (US$72 million) worldwide, making it the highest-grossing Telugu film and the second highest-grossing Indian film at that point. It is one of the highest-grossing Indian films to date. It received national and international acclaim, and started a new film movement called Pan-Indian films. However, after his association with Rajamouli, Prabhas hasn't delivered many hits. The actor witnessed a string of flops including 'Saaho' which performed well only in Hindi, 'Radhe Shyam', the critical and commercial disaster 'Adipurush' and the 'Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire' which received moderate success against the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Dunki'.

His recent film 'Kalki 2898 AD' broke the streak of his box-office disappointments as it earned over Rs 1000 crore worldwide.

–IANS

Shun superstition

MAANTRIKA (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Vyaan Varma Jammula
- **ACTORS** Vyaan Varma Jammula, Radhika Maalipatil, Mythili Nayak, Jagadeesh Oorukere.
- **Duration** 109 minutes
- **Certification** UA



Director Vyaan Varma Jammula has tried with his film to show how people who have a nefarious agenda create fear in others. He also highlights the need to save gullible people from superstitions. He has worn multiple hats – writing the script, screenplay, dialogues, directing and playing the lead role – for this movie.

The movie revolves around a haunted mall – Maarnudi – on Karnataka-Maharashtra border. People believe that the mall is inhabited by ghosts. Because of that, no one comes forward to do business at the mall. Chandrasekhar approaches Vyasavan Krishna aka Krishna (Vyaan Varma Jammula), a ghost hunter who owns a come to reality (CTR) organisation. After a few false starts, Krishna takes up the assignment himself. Will he succeed in revealing the truth is what the movie Maantrika is all about.

The movie has very few actors and they have tried their best to showcase their acting skills as per their capacity. We must appreciate Jammula for playing the lead role while directing the film. The movie highlights the advantages of technology and how the real estate mafia cheats gullible landowners by creating fake documents. Had the director focused on cinematography and background score, the movie would have been a good entertainment for the audiences who love to watch movies with elements such as horror, thriller, and suspense.

But as it stands, it is not really a worthwhile watch.

-Y Maheswara Reddy

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Hospitality to movies

The owners of Green House that was known as the destination for movie promotional programmes for more than three decades have launched the Green House Movies banner and are set to bankroll the film Devaru Ruju Madidhanu. The muhurat function and teaser unveiling programmes were held on Sunday. Viraaj, the son of Govind Raj CT, one of the owners of Green House, debuts as the hero with this movie. Keerthi Krishna, the niece of actor Sharan and actress Shruthi, also debuts with this movie. And a debut it is, also for Divita Rai, who was crowned Miss Universe India 2022.

On the occasion, Vasu, Viraaj's uncle, said how the Green House, a family restaurant at Gandhinagar which shut down, had served film actors, producers and directors, and how Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar and Parvathamma Rajkumar agreed to inaugurate the Green House three decades ago. "My father and Dr Rajkumar learnt music under the guidance of Parthamma Rajkumar's father. My father had built a theater in Chamarajanagar to encourage artistes. Now, my nephew Viraaj is making debut with this movie," said Vasu.

Title unveiled

The team of Yaake organised a function on Thursday at Kalavidara Sangha to unveil its title and announce the launching of Siri Cinemas Production House banner. Prominent personalities including Orata Prashanth, Srinagar Kitty, producer Siddaraju and actress Ambuja were present on the occasion. A movie with a similar title – Yaake – was made in 2005, directed by Rajendrakumar while Raghav and Anita Nair were the lead pair.

Now, Prem is directing Yaake that is expected to be made in Kannada and Telugu. Its title in Telugu is Samsthanam. The movie is scheduled to go on floors next month. Seetha Harshavardhan, who has acted in TV serials, is bankrolling the movie.

"When Prem narrated the script to me, I agreed to bankroll it as its story is very interesting," said Harshavardhan. She said Kushi Cinemas of Hyderabad and Amazon have joined up with her. "I am happy to get the much-needed support much before the movie goes on floors," she said.

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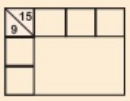
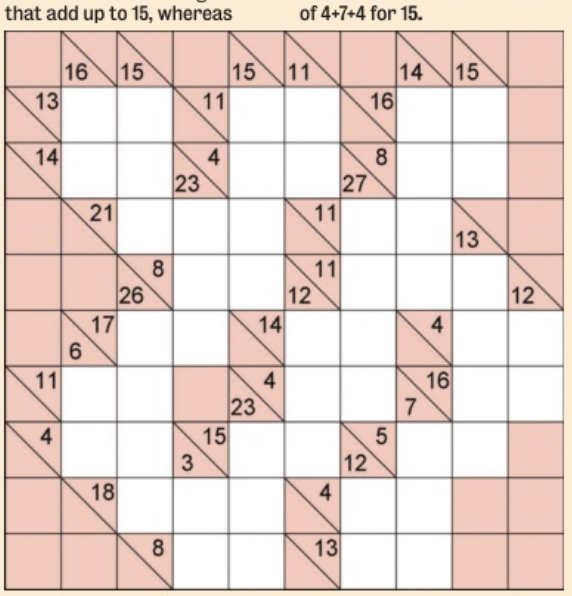
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

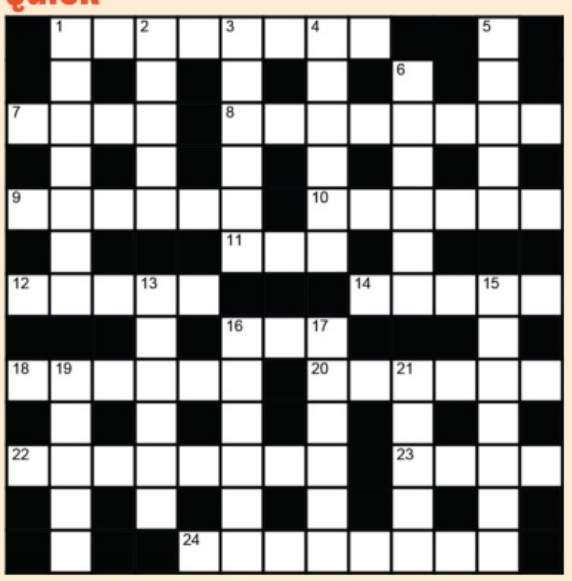


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Collarbone (8)
7 Murky fog (4)
8 Temporarily puts a stop to (8)
9 Broken pieces of pottery (6)
10 Takes place (6)
11 Large cask (3)
12 Recently made (5)
14 Small meal (5)
16 Eye glasses: Pince ___ (3)
18 Ottawa locale (6)
20 Suave, bland (6)
22 Opera texts (8)
23 Electrical units of resistance (4)
24 Conventional (8)

DOWN

1 Kapoor used during "pujas"? (7)
2 Boring tool (5)
3 Be emphatic (6)
4 Period of instruction (6)
5 Rummier (5)
6 Plateau in South Central India? (6)
13 Flight of steps (6)
15 Multiplex on Outer Ring Road (7)
16 Chatter (6)
17 City in Switzerland (6)
19 Assumed name (5)
21 Not narrow (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS U

YNBYRU EWQAWE VPEW YQA TWSSWE UWEZHFW SDYQ HU WCIWFSWA PL RPG, QP VYSSWE BDYS RPGE SYUO VYR TW.

Linemaro

You know what you would really look beautiful in? My arms

Mindchow

Don't waste your time on revenge. Those who hurt you will eventually face their own karma

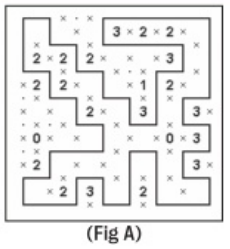
Joke of the day

You can measure distance by time. "How far away is it?" "Oh about 20 minutes." But it doesn't work the other way. "When do you get off work?" "Around 3 miles."

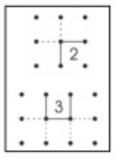
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



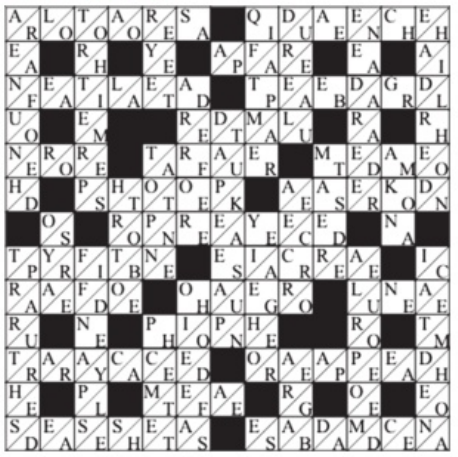
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		M		

ACROSS

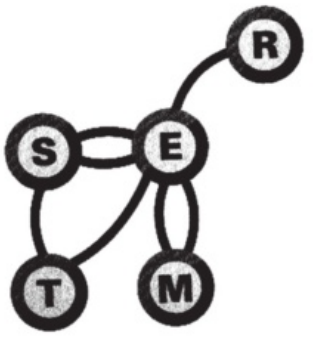
1 LSD or; 6 Ailed;
7 Treat; 8 Curia;
9 Mocks

DOWN

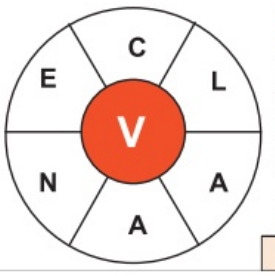
1 A-list; 2 Due mo;
3 To err; 4 Card I;
5 Lacks

Mensapuzzle

Spell out an eight – letter word, travelling along each line once only.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3		6		5	4	
			9		7			
2	6			8				7
6	2	9					5	
		1				9		
	4					3	2	1
1				9			7	5
			2		3			
	7	6		1		4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5

3 8 8 8

Medium = 19

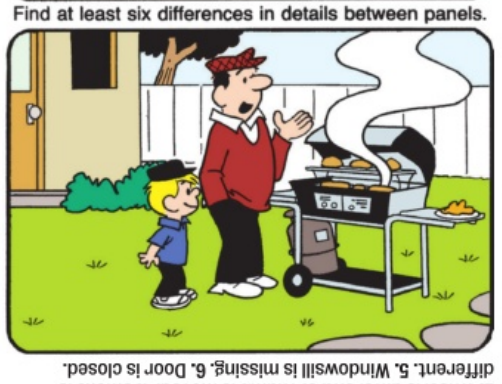
3 4 6 8

Hard = 38

1 6 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



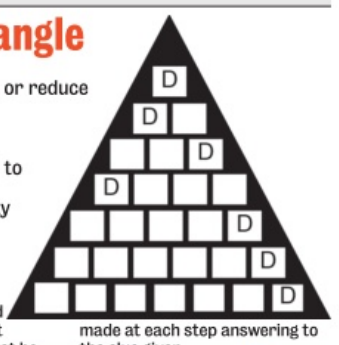
Differences: 1. Shelf on right side of grill is longer. 2. Wheel is different. 3. Thumb is moved. 4. Smoke is different. 5. Windowsill is missing. 6. Door is closed.

Riddler

I, Professor Picanumba, will amaze and astound you. Take a piece of paper and write any word on it. Fold the paper in half twice, and put it on the floor. Now stand on it. Believe it or not, I will now tell you what is on the paper.

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Prefix for remove or reduce
3 Bright colour
4 Much loved
5 Listened to
6 ____ on: referred to repeatedly
7 Very dry or thirsty

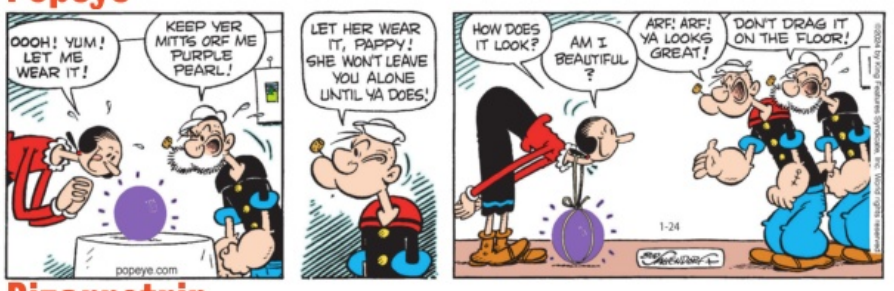


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

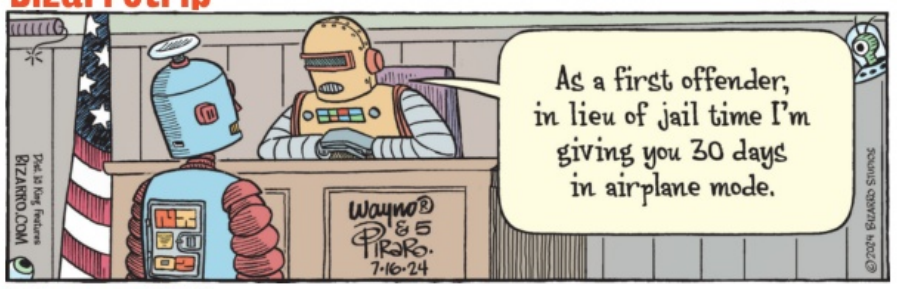
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


OOOH! YUM! LET ME WEAR IT!
KEEP YER MITTS ORF ME PURPLE PEARL!
popeye.com
LET HER WEAR IT, PAPPY! SHE WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE UNTIL YA DOES!
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
AM I BEAUTIFUL?
ARF! ARF! YA LOOKS GREAT!
DON'T DRAG IT ON THE FLOOR!
1-24

Bizarrotrip

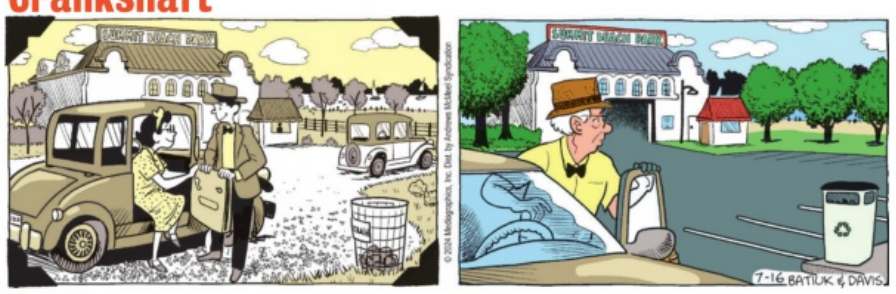


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

ONE TEASPOON...
1 TSP SALT
1 TBSP SUGAR
6 TBSP
ONE TEASPOON...
ONE TEASPOON.
TRIPLE-CHECKING EVERY MEASUREMENT IS GOING TO TAKE YOU FOREVER!
IT'LL ONLY ADD, LIKE, TWO EXTRA MINUTES. TWO MINUTES IS NOT FOREVER.
I GUESS I CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOUR THEORY OF TIME.

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Love is in the air in your personal life, and singles may find a suitable match. You may perform well professionally, with support from friends and subordinate staff.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be confident, which may reflect in your work. You are in a strong position against opponents and enemies. You may be focused on your goals, and health issues seem to be improving. In your domestic life, try to avoid unnecessary arguments, as they may disrupt harmony.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel happy due to blessings from an auspicious planetary combination. Positive energy may enhance your reputation among those around you. You might spend time studying intellectual topics and may plan for higher studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may sense negative vibrations around you, which could make you feel unhappy. It is advised to avoid investing in worthless assets. You might find that friends and people around you are not supportive today, so avoid expecting too much help, as it may lead to disappointment. Independent decision-making is recommended.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may struggle to present yourself practically and could feel a bit dull, leading to a lack of confidence. Trust your intuition when making investment decisions. People around you may not be very cooperative with routine tasks. Be cautious with your diet to avoid stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with family and friends. You might plan to renovate your home or add some creative touches to maintain your social status, which could enhance your reputation. An increase in your fixed assets is possible.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a positive day for gains. You may see results with less effort, and past losses could turn into profits with your wisdom. You might plan for higher education to advance your career. Consider donating to a religious place or charity, and helping those in need. Some investment in intellectual assets is also possible, and students may perform well.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel dull and face some health issues. A chronic condition might reappear, so avoid rushing or driving too quickly. Conflicts with business partners should be avoided, and it's best to postpone major business decisions. Investments are not advised for now. However, with blessings from elders, things may start to improve by late evening.

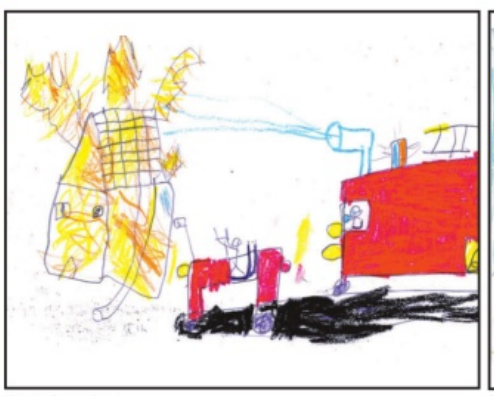
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by destiny. Postponed projects may now resume with the help of elders' blessings, bringing a messy situation under control and speeding up your progress. Disputes among family members may be resolved, increasing domestic harmony. Your creativity may also improve, especially in artistic endeavours, and you may be drawn to glamour.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a good day, and you are likely to be enthusiastic. With a strong focus, you may perform well in business and at work. Your boss may be supportive, possibly leading to new responsibilities or a promotion. A visit to a religious place could be on the cards. However, avoid arrogance in your love life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and destiny is on your side. Postponed projects may get back on track, thanks to elders' blessings, which could help you navigate messy situations and accelerate your work. Domestic harmony may bring happiness as family disputes are resolved. Your creativity may flourish, particularly in art, movies, or glamour.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, the moon is not in a favourable position. You may feel dull and could experience health issues. There is a risk of losses during this period, so avoid investing in risky assets. Gains may turn into losses, and it is best to refrain from spending on worthless objects. Steer clear of controversies, as they could affect you negatively.

KIDZONE



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Sanjana V, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$2^{180} \times 2^{-178} = 2^2 = 4$

RIDDLER
Your foot is on the paper.

BULL'S EYE
calve, cave, lava, lave, naval, navel, VALANCE, vale, vane, veal

FAST FIVE

S	M	O	C	K
A	U	R	I	C
T	E	T	R	A
I	D	E	A	L
L	O	R	D	S

STRIKE OUT

S	A	S	H	E	S	S	A	D	D	E	N			
H	L	T	E	A	G	E	E							
T	R	A	C	E	D	R	A	P	P	E	D			
U	E	P	I	P	E	R	O	M						
R	A	D	O	H	U	G	O	L	E	A				
T	R	I	B	E	S	A	R	E	S	C				
O	O	N	E	Y	E	D	A							
D	S	H	O	O	K	A	A	R	O	N				
U	E	T	A	L	R	E								
N	O	R	A	F	A	R	M	E	M	O				
F	A	I	L	E	D	T	A	B	A	R	D			
E	R	Y	P	A	R	E	A							
R	O	T	O	R	S	Q	U	E	N	C	H			

QUICK

S			O	R	T	H	O	D	O	X				
A	S		E		C		A							
L	I	B	R	E	T	T	I		O	H	M	S		
	P		E		I		S		C		R	E		
C	A	N	A	D	A		U	R	B	A	N	E		
		I		N	E	Z								
	F	R	E	S	H			S	N	A	C	K		
		O			T	U	N							
S	H	A	R	D	S		O	C	C	U	R	S		
P		E		I		S		C		R		E		
S	M	O	G		S	U	S	P	E	N	D	S		
A		U		N		E		D			D			
C	L	A	V	I	C	L	E				O			

MENSA PUZZLE
SEMESTER

QUOTE UNCODE
Always render more and better service than is expected of you, no matter what your task may be.

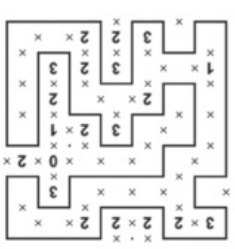
SUDOKU

9	7	6	5	1	8	4	3	2
4	8	5	2	7	3	6	1	9
1	3	2	4	9	6	8	7	5
8	4	7	6	5	9	3	2	1
3	5	1	7	2	4	9	8	6
6	2	9	8	3	1	7	5	4
2	6	4	3	8	5	1	9	7
5	1	8	9	4	7	2	6	3
7	9	3	1	6	2	5	4	8

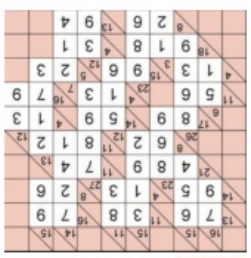
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, DE, Red, Dear, Heard, Harped, Parched.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 8 − 3 − 8 = 5
Medium
6 x 4 − 8 + 3 = 19
Hard
6 x 5 x 1 + 8 = 38

LOOP



KAKURO



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